

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A solid detergent composition comprising:
 - (a) an effective amount of a cleaning agent to provide soil removal, wherein the cleaning agent comprises about 0.1 wt.% to about 20 wt.% of a surfactant based on the weight of the solid detergent composition, and about 1 wt.% to about 50 wt.% phosphonate, amino-carboxylate, or mixture thereof based on the weight of the detergent composition;
 - (b) an effective amount of a binding agent dispersed throughout the solid detergent composition to provide the detergent composition as a solid at a temperature up to about 100° F within about 20 minutes of extrusion, the binding agent comprising a result of mixing:
 - (i) about 10 wt.% to about 80 wt.% alkali metal carbonate, based on the weight of the detergent composition;
 - (ii) about 1 wt.% to about 40 wt.% alkali metal bicarbonate, based on the weight of the detergent composition; and
 - (iii) a sufficient amount of water to react with the alkali metal carbonate and the alkali metal bicarbonate to provide solidification;wherein the solid detergent composition is provided as an extruded solid in the form of a pellet or a block as a result of a step of hardening, and wherein the hardening comprises a result of solidification by the binding agent.
2. (ORIGINAL) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the binding agent comprises alkali metal sesquicarbonate.
3. (ORIGINAL) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said alkali metal bicarbonate is provided as a reaction product of alkali metal carbonate and acid.

4. (ORIGINAL) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a builder comprising sodium tripolyphosphate, sodium nitrilotriacetate, or mixtures thereof.

5. (CANCELED)

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant comprises at least one of a nonionic surfactant, an anionic surfactant, or a mixture thereof.

7-13. (CANCELED)

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for solidifying a detergent composition, the method comprising:

(a) mixing an effective amount of a cleaning agent to provide soil removal and an effective amount of a binding agent to solidify the detergent composition to form a mixture, the cleaning agent comprising about 0.1 wt.% to about 20 wt.% of a surfactant based on the weight of the solid detergent composition, and about 1 wt.% to about 50 wt.% phosphonate, amino-carboxylate, or mixture thereof based on the weight of the detergent composition, the binding agent comprising a result of mixing:

(i) about 10 wt.% to about 80 wt.% alkali metal carbonate, based on the weight of the detergent composition;

(ii) about 1 wt.% to about 40 wt.% alkali metal bicarbonate, based on the weight of the detergent composition; and

(iii) a sufficient amount of water to react with the alkali metal carbonate and the alkali metal bicarbonate to provide solidification;

(b) extruding the mixture; and

(c) hardening the mixture to form the solid detergent composition in the form of a pellet or a block, wherein the hardening comprises a result of solidification by the binding agent, and wherein the solid detergent composition has a melting temperature greater than 100° F within about 20 minutes of extruding the mixture.

15. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 14, further comprising a step of:
- (a) generating alkali metal bicarbonate by reacting alkali metal carbonate with acid.
16. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 15, wherein the acid comprises at least one of citric acid, sulfamic acid, adipic acid, succinic acid, and mixtures thereof.
17. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 14, wherein the binding agent comprises alkali metal sesquicarbonate.
- 18-19. (CANCELED)
20. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 14, further comprising a step of:
- (a) packaging the mixture of cleaning agent and binding agent.
- 21-27 (CANCELED)
28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the solid composition is provided as a result of extrusion into a packaging.

Support for the Amendment

Claim 14 is amended to correct a typographical error. In particular, the word "of" has been changed to "or." It is pointed out that the phrase "a pellet or a block" is consistent with the phrase provided in claim 1. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by this amendment, and entry thereof is requested upon entry, claims 1-4, 6, 14-17, 20, and 28 are active in this application.